



PATRIOT LETTER

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

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A Message from the United States Attorney

KANSAS CITY TO HOST NATIONAL CONVENTION FOR PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

Dear Law Enforcement Officials,

The United States Department of Justice is planning its Second Annual Project Safe Neighborhoods National Convention and has selected Kansas City as its site for the event.



Project Safe Neighborhoods is the United States Department of Justice's aggressive program aimed at reducing firearm crimes in our communities. The Western District of Missouri has developed the program into its own Project Ceasefire initiative, which has been recognized as being very successful. That success is due to the great support and cooperation we receive from other federal agencies and state and local law enforcement.

The fact that the Department of Justice chose Kansas City for its Second Annual PSN National Convention certainly reflects the success of our program and partners.

Details of the convention have not yet been finalized, but it will be an honor to host such an event in the Western District of Missouri. It has been determined that the national convention will take place June 15 to June 17 at several of Kansas City's downtown hotels.

Last year, the national convention was held in Philadelphia, Penn., and was attended by approximately 2,000 law enforcement officials from around the country. This year's convention is expected to bring even more attendees.

Invitations will soon be distributed to each of the United States Attorneys from across the country, all Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives offices in the United States and to Missouri's state and local law enforcement officials.

Hosting the Project Safe Neighborhoods National Convention is an exciting opportunity for our district. I am truly looking forward to the event and to seeing many of you in attendance.

Sincerely,

Todd P. Graves
United States Attorney

A Look Inside

LECC News and Events.....2

The Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee's second annual training seminar is in its planning stages. Also, several other training opportunities currently are available for law enforcement officials in the area. For more information about the training seminars and other LECC events, please see Page 2.

Murderer sentenced to death.....3

Wesley Ira Purkey recently was convicted of the kidnap and murder of a 16-year-old girl. A federal jury sentenced him to death. United States Attorney Todd P. Graves and Deputy U.S. Attorney Matt J. Whitworth prosecuted the case.

Computer forensics lab opens....3

A new computer forensics laboratory has opened in the Northland area for law enforcement investigating child exploitation cases and other computer crimes. The new laboratory will partner with the United States Attorney's Office in aggressively investigating and prosecuting these types of crimes. More details about the lab may be found inside.

Career changes.....4

Several new employees have joined the United States Attorney's Office in recent months. We'll introduce you to the new names. If your office or another agency in your area hires a new team member, please be sure to contact us and we'll put it in a future issue of the Patriot Letter.

